

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the abstract on page 34 as follows:

ABSTRACT ~~OF THE DISCLOSURE~~

~~Disclosed herein is a~~ A core sample collector includes comprising a cylinder and a piston, wherein the piston ~~is~~ equipped with a sterilizing agent-applying mechanism and a sterilizing agent-scraping member. ~~The piston is composed of~~ includes a piston body, upper piston rings and lower piston rings, and ~~the sterilizing agent-applying mechanism is~~ preferably made up by holding the a sterilizing agent ~~within~~ is held in a space partitioned by defined between the piston, the cylinder, the upper piston ring and the lower piston ring. The sterilizing agent ~~is preferably~~ may be an antimicrobial polymeric gel. ~~A method of taking a core sample , comprising using the core sample collector is also disclosed~~ is collected by contacting the cylinder against a surface from which the core sample is to be taken, and causing relative movement between the cylinder and the piston such that: (i) the sterilizing agent is applied to the inner peripheral wall surface of the cylinder, (ii) the upper and lower piston rings scrape the sterilizing agent from the inner peripheral wall, and (iii) a core is received in the cylinder.